(b) The issues under discussion were accelerated alleviation of poverty and eradication of food insecurity in this country.

National River conservation plan

*198. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has pointed out that there was need to implement the river conservation programme with a greater sense of urgency and commitment as the availability of fresh water has dipped due to man-made pollution;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has decided to prioritise the approved works under the National River Conservation Plan; and

(c) if so, what are the steps, the Prime Minister has asked his Ministry to take in regard to river pollution?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Based on the pollution load assessment, the works under the National River Conservation Plan has been taken in 157 towns along 31 polluted stretches of major rivers in 18 States. 782 projects amounting to Rs. 3081.89 crores have been sanctioned out of which 401 projects have been completed and the others are at various stages of implementation.

(c) The Prime Minister asked to take various steps *inter alia*; as under:

- The State Governments need to evolve strategies for making the programme more sustainable by way of capacity building of the local bodies and enhancement of their revenue.
- To make these programmes more effective in terms of cost, impact and outreach, an integrated approach covering all aspects of river pollution as well as urban sanitation & waste management needs to be adopted by State Govts.
- There is need to strengthen the institutional arrangement in the local bodies for speedy implementation and proper monitoring of the projects.

- NGOs, members of civil society, social and cultural organizations, religious personalities & institutions need to play a positive role in conserving rivers.

National Adventure Award

*199. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to institute a National Adventure Award;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the steps, so far, taken to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) to (c) There is an existing Scheme of Government of India to give National Adventure Awards. The first Awards were given in 1994.

The National Adventure Awards (renamed as "Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards") have been instituted as the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the filed of adventure on land, sea and air. A provision has also been made for a Lifetime Achievement Award to persons who, besides individual excellence, have devoted themselves to the cause of promotion of adventure.

The Awards comprise a bronze statue, a scroll of honour, a blazer with silken tie and a case award equivalent to an amount admissible to Arjuna Awardees (presently Rs. 3.00 lakhs).

NAIS for Kerala

*200. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from Kerala Government requesting to include coconut, arecanut, rubber etc. under the coverage of National Agriculture Insurance Scheme;